



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists may be getting ready to press the government for substantial concessions, although one Buddhist source claims they do not wish Ky's overthrow.

Today there were peaceful rallies, each attended by some 10,000 Buddhists, in both Hué and Saigon. The Saigon demonstration was the first since Thi's ouster, and we have several reports that the Buddhists are planning further demonstrations there later this week.

Meanwhile, Ky, in an apparently calculated risk, let Thi return to Da Nang today, presumably hoping he would calm down his supporters. So far this gambit has been successful, since Thi addressed a mass meeting this evening and urged officials and the public to accept the situation.

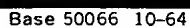
If, indeed, Thi continues to behave--he is scheduled to remain in the area for about two days and leave the country shortly after--this could undercut the Buddhists' charge of quarreling among the military.

2. Soviet Union

Moscow's two space dogs are back on the earth after their spacecraft was deorbited earlier than anticipated. A late TASS report explains that the dogs were suffering abnormal heart reaction. The Soviets should glean much from the flight about prolonged weightlessness and the effect of the Van Allen radiation belt on living creatures.

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3. Communist China

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4. India

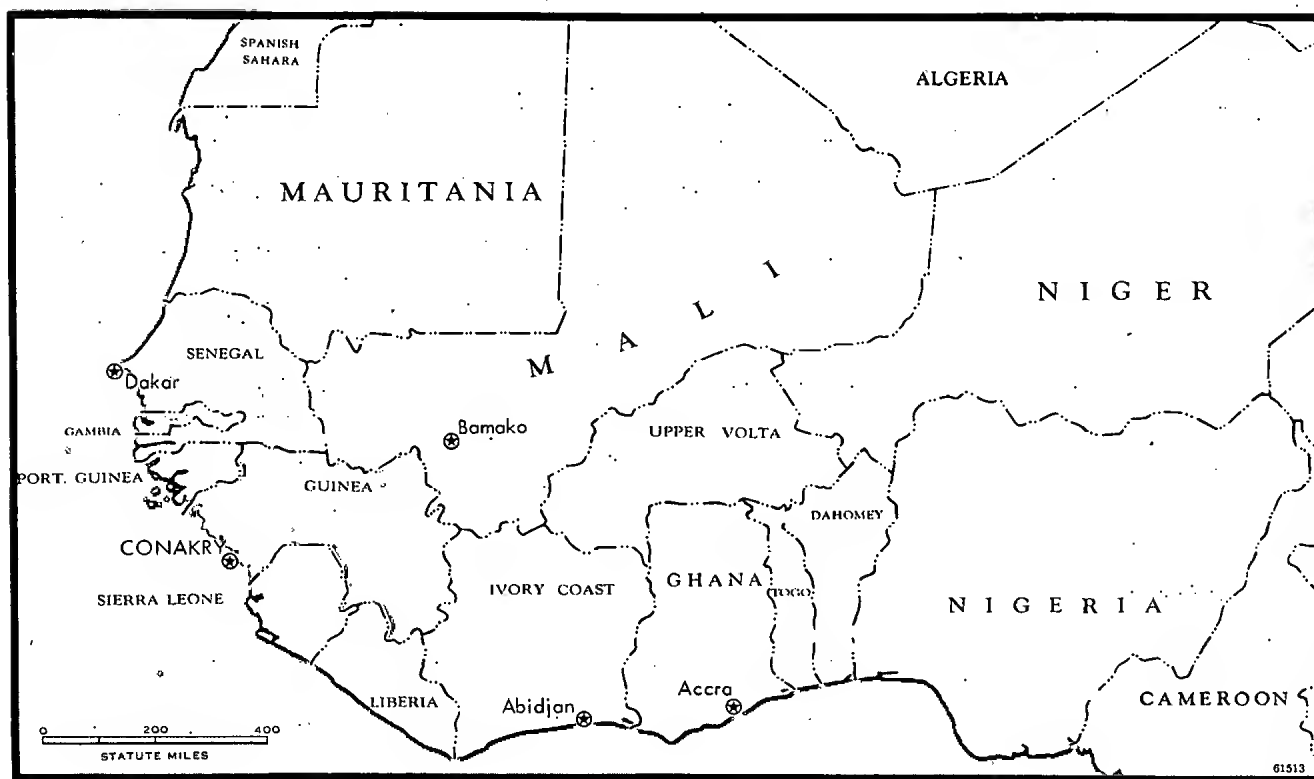
A series of domestic disorders over the past few weeks has kept the new Gandhi government grasping at emergency palliatives.

Riots in and around Calcutta seem to be dying down for the moment. These were fomented by Communists and leftists as a test of strength. Communal clashes between Hindus and Sikhs have broken out in the Punjab, and the army has had tough going against tribal revolutionaries in the northeast.

These troubles have deflected the government's attack on less dramatic, but far more important, economic problems. Since these problems promise to persist during the spring and summer, civil disorders are likely to continue. (Map)

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WEST AFRICA



5. Indonesia

Sukarno is still trying to get back the authority he passed to General Suharto last weekend. Sukarno put out a delphic order today implying that his weekend action was being misinterpreted and that he, and only he, holds all power.

The generals as usual are giving lip service to Sukarno but are going pretty much their own way. Ambassador Green feels that the tide is running strongly against Sukarno. These are, however, Indonesian tides and run slowly, so that changes when they come will be relatively gradual.

6. Guinea

Despite all the brave talk about restoring Nkrumah, Guinea's Sekou Touré seems primarily concerned right now about his own position at home.

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(Map)

7. Ghana

Ambassador Williams reports that food shortages in Ghana will reach emergency proportions by the end of the month and that the new Ghanaian authorities are looking to the US for immediate delivery of essential staples.

8. Yugoslavia

President Tito's dream of spearheading another conference of the nonaligned next week has collapsed. Sukarno's domestic difficulties, Nkrumah's overthrow, and a general coolness to the idea in India and elsewhere seem to make a meeting just now impossible.

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9. France

An official of the French space agency says there is a better than even chance that De Gaulle will sign a satellite cooperation agreement during his June visit to Moscow. Both sides would regard such an agreement as primarily political in nature. There are a number of obstacles to carrying it out. One of these is the steadfast Soviet refusal to provide needed information to the French on the Soviet booster system that will launch the French satellite.

10. West Germany

Acting Foreign Minister Carstens suggests that the current confrontation with De Gaulle may offer an opportunity to push ahead with plans for a NATO nuclear force. Some of the smaller nations in the alliance, fearing that the dissociation of France from NATO will enhance the West Germans, may well question this thesis. The British still hope that Bonn's nuclear needs can be best met by the McNamara special committee proposal.

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